

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**NEW REGULATION APPROVED:
Distance Learning Continuing Education**

The board would like to announce that on December 17, 2004, the Office of Administrative Law approved proposed changes to the board's regulation, section 1397.60 of Division 13.1 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, regarding distance learning continuing education. Currently, psychologists renewing their licenses are allowed to accrue up to eight of the required 36 hours of continuing education via distance learning (i.e. home study, Internet courses, etc.). Effective January 1, 2005, psychologists whose licenses expire on or after that date will be allowed to accrue up to 18 hours of continuing education via distance learning each renewal cycle. Distance learning courses must meet all standards of an approved continuing education course and must be taken within the 24-month period immediately preceding the expiration date of the license. The language is as follows:

1397.60. Definitions

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(g) "Distance learning" means the variety of forms of organized and directed learning experiences that occur when the instructor and the student are not in direct visual or auditory contact. These include, but are not limited to, courses delivered via the Internet, CD-ROM, satellite downlink, correspondence and home study. Self-initiated, independent study programs without an approved CE sponsor are not acceptable for continuing education. Except for qualified individuals with a disability who apply to and are approved by the board pursuant to section 1397.62(c), distance learning can be used to meet no more than ~~22% (8 hours)~~ 50% (18 hours) of the continuing education required in each renewal cycle. Distance learning courses must meet all standards of an approved continuing education course.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 2915(g) and 2930, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Sections 29 and 2915, Business and Professions Code.